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Time is precious. That's why we invented the weekend: to reclaim for ourselves time lost in the pursuit of...more time. By our own hand, inevitably, some weekends are lost, but girlfriend, I tell you, mine was stolen. By the Supermen of America.

Recollection is nine-tenths of mnemonic law, so allow me to scratch the back of my mind and piece together the evidence...

click for more...

Exit Lane by Lois Lane

Armstong's Opinion

Olsen On The Town

Today's Headlines

Your LexCom

Back to Main

ACTION COMICS 752. March, 1999. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY. 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ACTION COMICS, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $23.88. Canadian subscribers must add $12.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 1999 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Printed on recyclable paper.
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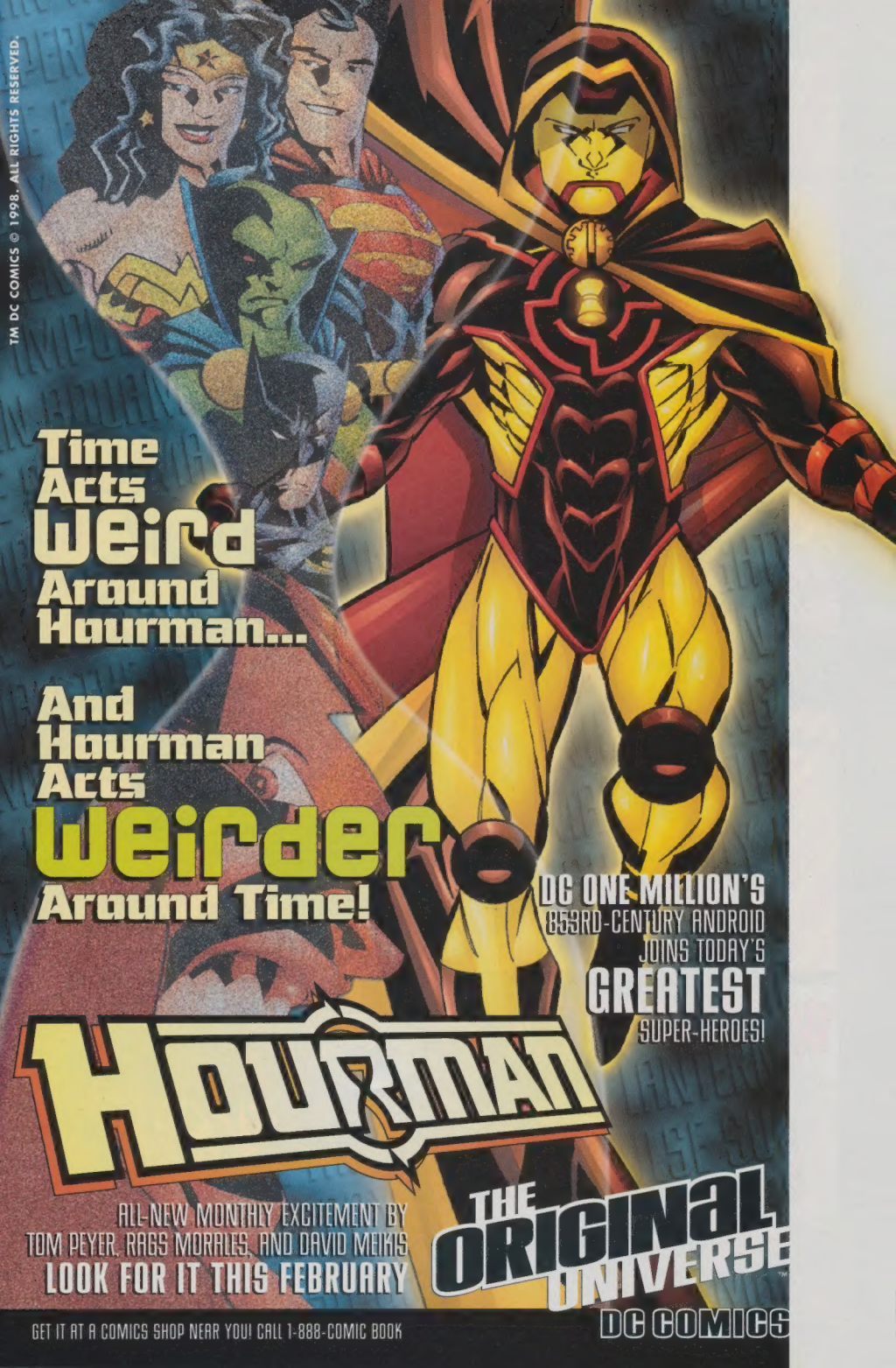
MONDAY, 5:33 P.M.
exCom
SHLP SHLP SHLP
IS IT... RAINING, DIRK?
NOT WHEN I CAME IN, JIMMY M'BOY. AND I WAS HERE ON TIME.
SHLP SHLP SHLP SHLP
LOIS! MON DIEU! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
YOU ARE SIX HOURS LATE! I NEED YOUR COLUMN IN TWENTY MINUTES!
!
ahem
STILL, CHERIE ... DID-- DID YOU BRING A DISC FROM HOME?
By now you've heard of the Supermen of America.
This group of young people banded together in the wake of Superman's global mission, filling Metropolis's apparent need for a masked, watchful eye.
tik-tikit tik

But you don't fill a need with a cement truck.
SUNDAY, 4:52 P.M.
WHAT A DAY. AT LEAST IT'S OVER.
THE LANE GIRLS INHERITED THE CONSTITUTION OF A HORSE, AND APPARENTLY WE NEED IT.
QUI HOSP ZON
NICE.
NOW SUPERMAN'S BAD FOR BUSINESS.
star
METROPOLIS TOURISM SAGS: SUPERMAN TO BLAME
Has the Man of Steel turned his back on us?
I'VE WORKED IN THE POPULAR ARTS LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THERE'S ALWAYS A NEW FLAVOR, A NEW BIG SHOT--
WHAT--?!
PYOW
PYOW
FORGOT ALREADY? THINK ON YOUR FEET, PRETTY LADY!
ASK THAT COP HOW MANY HOLES HIS GUN CAN MAKE IN THE HUMAN HEAD!
S GENERAL
EMERGENCY
SPIRO ZOMBI DON'T FORGET A THIRST.
YOU TELL THAT BADGE TO BACK OFF.

OUTBURST! WHAT'S GOING ON?
AWW, ONE OF THE ZOMBIS GOT AWAY! WHY DON'T THEY STAY CAUGHT?
I'LL STOP HIM.
WHAT FLOOR ARE WE ON AGAIN?
GOOD LORD! LOOK!
NICE TRY, LADY. IT'S THE OLDEST TRICK AND YOU KNOW IT--!
NO, REALLY--
--SOMEONE JUST JUMPED OUT OF A WINDOW!
BLAM! BLAM!
DON'T YOU KNOW WHEN TO QUIT, HERO?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Time Acts Weird Around Hourman...
And Hourman Acts Weirder Around Time!
DC ONE MILLION'S 853RD-CENTURY ANDROID JOINS TODAY'S GREATEST SUPER-HEROES!
HOURMAN
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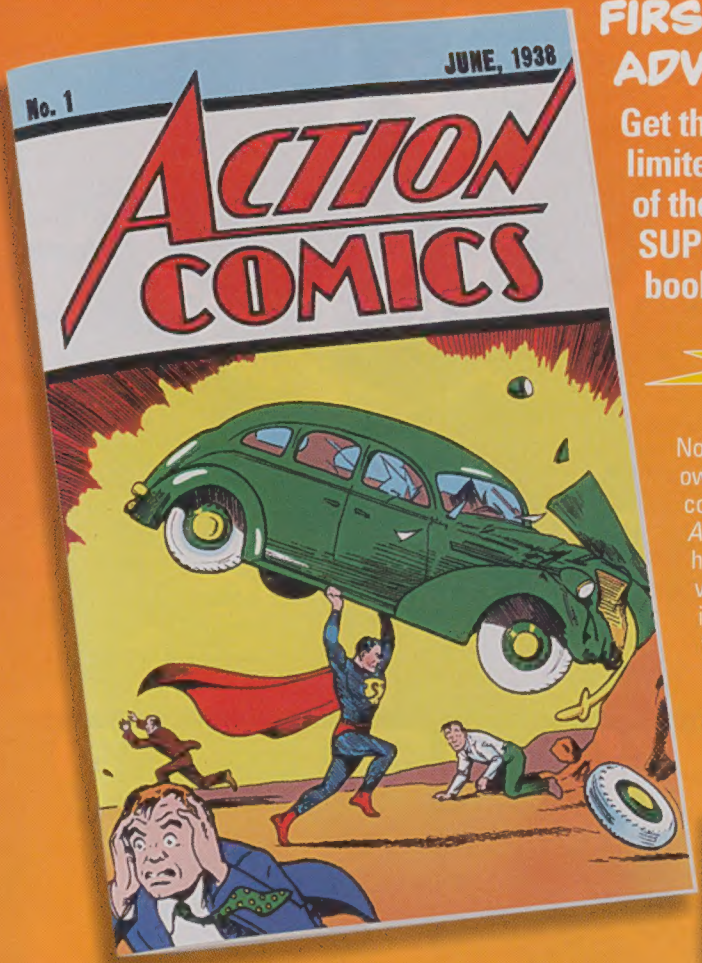
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT.
PYANG
PYANG
AND IT'S NOT "HERO"--
AAAHH!
--IT'S LOSER!
UUUFFFF!
BA-RUMPP!
UNGH!
uunh...
WHAT... WAS THAT SOUND?

UM... THAT WAS ME.
SORRY.
SORRY?!
KID, YOU JUST SAVED ME A STACK OF PAPERWORK!
YOU'RE A HERO, KID. YOU KNOW THAT?
NO, SIR. I MEAN, YESSIR!
HERO? WITH HEROES LIKE THESE...
MA'AM? YOU ALL RIGHT?

JOIN THE MAN OF STEEL™ ON HIS FIRST EXCITING ADVENTURE...



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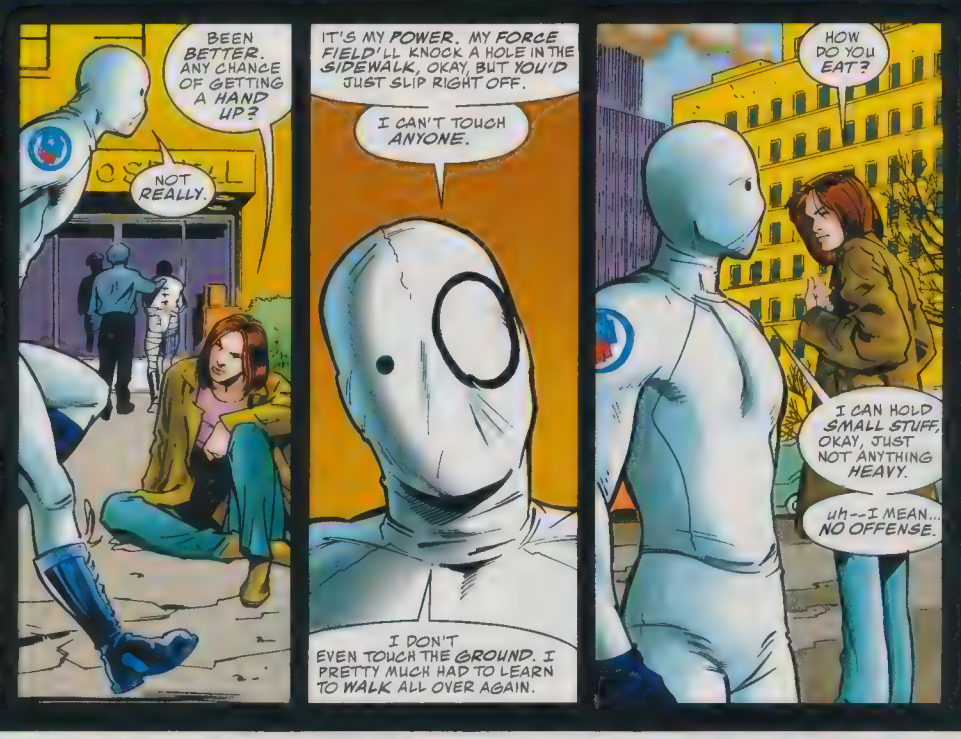
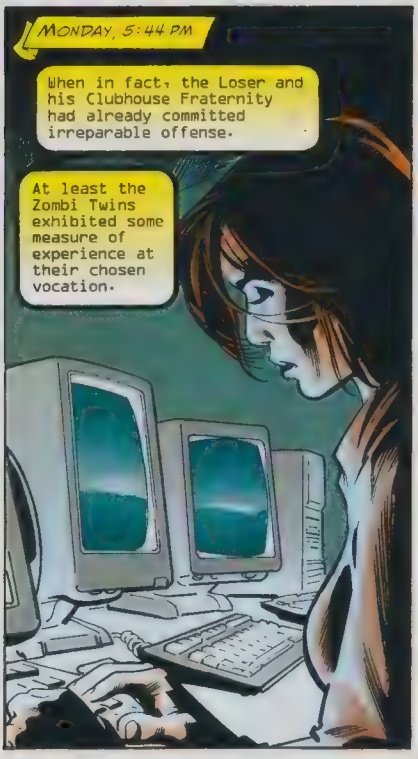
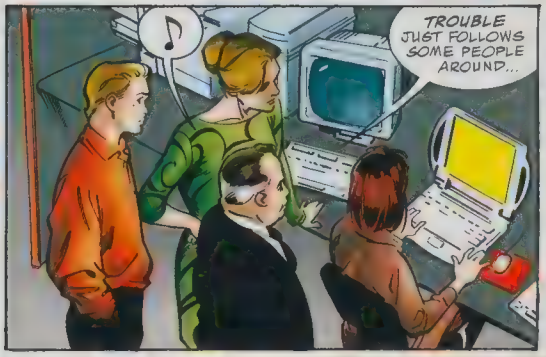
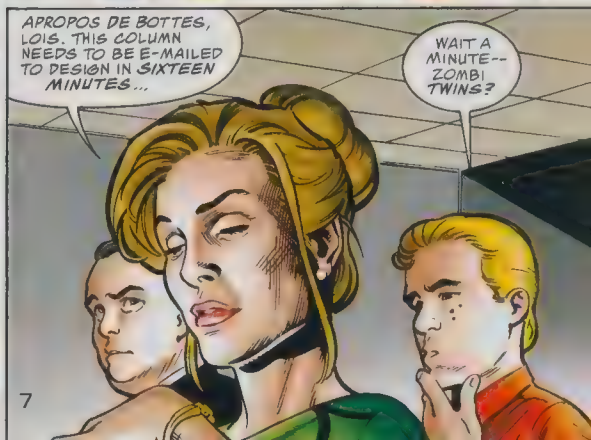

BEEN BETTER. ANY CHANCE OF GETTING A HAND UP?
NOT REALLY.
IT'S MY POWER. MY FORCE FIELD'LL KNOCK A HOLE IN THE SIDEWALK, OKAY, BUT YOU'D JUST SLIP RIGHT OFF.
I CAN'T TOUCH ANYONE.
I DON'T EVEN TOUCH THE GROUND. I PRETTY MUCH HAD TO LEARN TO WALK ALL OVER AGAIN.
HOW DO YOU EAT?
I CAN HOLD SMALL STUFF, OKAY, JUST NOT ANYTHING HEAVY.
uh--I MEAN... NO OFFENSE.


MONDAY, 5:44 PM
When in fact, the Loser and his Clubhouse Fraternity had already committed irreparable offense.
At least the Zombi Twins exhibited some measure of experience at their chosen vocation.


TROUBLE JUST FOLLOWS SOME PEOPLE AROUND...


APROPOS DE BOTTES, LOIS. THIS COLUMN NEEDS TO BE E-MAILED TO DESIGN IN SIXTEEN MINUTES...
WAIT A MINUTE-- ZOMBI TWINS?

SUNDAY, 4:08 P.M.
NURSE'S S
COMING THROUGH!
I'LL KILL YOU!
QUIET!
WHO'S ON CALL?
OSHIKAWA!
CALL HER!
I'LL KILL YOU ALL!
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKIN' AT?
YOU GONNA DRINK THAT OR WHAT?
I'LL TAKE IT! I'M THIRSTY!
HE'S LOOSE!
I SAID I'M THIRSTY!
I GOT HIM!
ALL I WANTED WAS A DRINK! AND SHE WOULDN'T GIVE IT TO ME!

RAMIREZ! DID YOU BRING THESE FREAKS UP HERE?
I'M THIRSTY!
HELP... SOMEBODY...
HE'LL CALM DOWN... WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
LONG STORY... HOW LONG UNTIL IT TAKES?
RIGHT ABOUT NOW... ARE YOU KIDS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS FIASCO? DO THE POLICE KNOW ABOUT THIS?
YEAH. THERE'S AN OFFICER DOWNSTAIRS, AND BRAHMA'S AT THE STATION.
WHO--?
HE'S ONE OF--
NEVER MIND. NEXT TIME HEAD FOR S.T.A.R. LABS, OKAY?
THAT'S WHAT SUPERMAN USED TO DO.
uhh... MITCH?
I-- I THINK I NEED TO SIT DOWN...
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG, LOTUS?

I--I WAS HOLDING IT IN... WITH MY MAGIC, BUT...
...I THINK I BROKE MY ARM IN THE FIGHT...
HOLY--!
YOU DIDN'T TELL US?
STAY HERE! I'LL GET SOMEONE!
HELLO! I NEED SOME HELP OVER HERE!
SO... WHY?
'CAUSE...
...I DIDN'T WANT YOU GUYS TO THINK I WAS WEAK, YOU KNOW?
IT'S HARD BEING THE ONLY GIRL IN THE GROUP...
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
MAYBE I WOULD.

To the innocent, he brings mercy.
To evil men, he brings fear...
...for they know that
justice is blind.
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MONDAY, 5:46 P.M.
WELL, I DON'T! WHY WERE YOU IN THE HOSPITAL?
I CONCUR. THE POINT, PLEASE?
SUNDAY, 1:10 P.M.
Is this city incapable of caring for itself? It's an old saw that super-heroes, like Prometheus, draw attention with fire.
HI, SIS. BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR LUNCH IN THE PARK.
STARTING TO GET COLD, LUCY...
SHOULDN'T YOU BE BUNDLING UP?
THE MOTHER HEN ROLE DOESN'T SUIT YOU, LOIS. I'M FINE. AND THE DOCTOR SAYS SO'S THE BABY.
MITCH...?
...ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE? I'M GETTING COLD WAITING.
DEFINITELY, NONA--CENTENNIAL PARK, UNDER THE SUPERMAN STATUE.
WHERE'S CLAUDIO, MITCH? HE WASN'T AT TRAINING TODAY.

NAW, HIS MOM'S IN TOWN FOR THE WEEKEND. HE COULDN'T GET AWAY.
--HEY, WHAT DID I TELL YOU? RIGHT ON TIME!
HOW'S RON THESE DAYS?
FINE--GOT THAT JOB AT THE BANK.
NOT IDEAL. BUT IT PAYS.
WITNESSES.
DON'T MATTER. 'WAY DOC DONOVAN FIXED OUR FACES, EVEN MA COULDN'T RECOGNIZE US.
DID I SAY SOMETHING? IS RON OKAY?
OKAY, KIDS. DON'T PUSH. DON'T PUSH!
WE GOT FM 103 PRIZE PACKS FOR ALL YOU LUCKY LISTENERS!
OH YEAH, HE JUST--
WHAT? I DIDN'T HEAR YOU!
Rock Mobile FM 103
SPECIAL PROMOTION TODAY. GOTCHER COLLECTIBLE SUPERMAN PHONE CARDS HERE.
LIMITED RUN OF 50,000 AND THEY'RE ALL GOING THIS WEEK!
AWW, MAN!
ALL RIGHT! WASN'T THIS WORTH WAITING FOR?

YOU DRIVE A TANK.
YOU DESTROY MAJOR CITIES.
YOU RESCUE BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF

BATTLETANX

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I SAID, HE WANTS TO MARRY ME!
NOW.
OUTTA THE TRUCK, CHUNK! MOVE, MOVE!
SPERA, OTHER SIDE! I GOT SHOTGUN!
YOU GOT IT, BROTHER!
WHO ARE YOU?
WE'RE THE ZOMBI TWINS, BIG MAN!
WH- WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WE WANT THOSE PHONE CARDS!
OUT!

GUYS, WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING! SHIT UP--
JUST TURN AROUND, MITCH--
--UNLESS YOU PLAN ON SITTING THIS ONE OUT!
NOT A CHANCE!
-LUCY, COME ON! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE-- GET HELP!
I'M WITH YOU ON ;mmh!; BOTH COUNTS--
ALL OF A SUDDEN --OH, LOIS, IT HURTS!
UNNG!
THANKS FOR THE STASH--
--THESE CARDS'LL SCORE US A TIDY UNTRACEABLE SUM, CHUM!
LIKE BUTTER! JUST LIKE BOSS MOXIE SAID!
WHY AREN'T WE MOVING?
I DON T KNOW--

WIZARD®
THE COMICS MAGAZINE

6TH ANNUAL FAN AWARDS BALLOT

The 6th annual *Wizard* Fan Awards are upon us and it's time for you, the comic fans of planet Earth, to determine what's best in the comic world! Comic fan voting will determine the winners of these prestigious awards. Nominees are provided as determined through a "Wizard World: Online" poll. If you don't like any of the nominees, feel free to vote for anybody or anything you want...including the li'l diddy you're holding in your hands!

You can use this ballot (or a photocopy) to vote, as long as you follow these rules and regulations:

1) **Only material that shipped in the calendar year 1998 is eligible.**
2) **You may vote for ONLY ONE entry in each category. Multiple votes are all disqualified.**
3) **You need not vote for a listed nominee. Write-in candidates are perfectly acceptable.**
4) **You may send in only *one* ballot. All multiple ballots are disqualified.**

FAVORITE WRITER
- ❑ Kurt Busiek
- ❑ Garth Ennis
- ❑ Grant Morrison
- ❑ Kevin Smith
- ❑ Mark Waid
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE PENCILER
- ❑ J. Scott Campbell
- ❑ Jim Lee
- ❑ Joe Madureira
- ❑ George Pérez
- ❑ Michael Turner
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE INKER
- ❑ Alex Garner
- ❑ Tom McWeeney
- ❑ Jimmy Palmiotti
- ❑ Tim Townsend
- ❑ Al Vey
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE PAINTER
- ❑ Glenn Fabry
- ❑ Joe Jusko
- ❑ Glen Orbik
- ❑ Alex Ross
- ❑ Mark Texeira
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE COLORIST
- ❑ Digital Chameleon
- ❑ Bjarne Hansen
- ❑ Dan Kemp
- ❑ Liquid Graphics
- ❑ Jonathan D. Smith
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE LETTERER
- ❑ Todd Klein
- ❑ Ken Lopez
- ❑ Tom Orzechowski
- ❑ Richard Starkings and Comicraft
- ❑ John Workman
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE EDITOR
- ❑ Tom Brevoort
- ❑ Kevin Dooley
- ❑ Bob Harras
- ❑ Ralph Macchio
- ❑ Dan Raspler
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE HERO
- ❑ Batman
- ❑ Daredevil
- ❑ Spawn
- ❑ Thor
- ❑ Wolverine
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE HEROINE
- ❑ Abbey Chase
- ❑ Fathom
- ❑ Gully
- ❑ Spider-Girl
- ❑ Witchblade
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE VILLAIN
- ❑ Green Goblin
- ❑ Parallax
- ❑ Prometheus
- ❑ Sabretooth
- ❑ Solaris
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE SUPPORTING CHARACTER
- ❑ Blind Alfred
- ❑ Commissioner Gordon
- ❑ Happy Hogan
- ❑ Ian Nottingham
- ❑ Sharon Carter
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE ONGOING SERIES
- ❑ *Battle Chasers*
- ❑ *Daredevil*
- ❑ *JLA*
- ❑ *Spawn*
- ❑ *Uncanny X-Men*
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE ONE-SHOT OR MINI-SERIES
- ❑ *Clerks: The Comic Book*
- ❑ *DC One Million*
- ❑ *JLA: The Nail*
- ❑ *JLA: Year One*
- ❑ *Superman For All Seasons*
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE PUBLISHER
- ❑ DC
- ❑ Marvel
- ❑ Todd McFarlane Productions
- ❑ Top Cow Productions
- ❑ WildStorm Productions
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE COMIC MERCHANDISE
- ❑ Daredevil statue, Bowen Designs
- ❑ Green Lantern (Hal Jordan) Power Ring, DC Retail Products
- ❑ Jay and Silent Bob action figures, Graphitti Designs
- ❑ Marvel Collector Editions: All-New, All-Different X-Men gift pack, Toy Biz
- ❑ *Turok 2: Seeds of Evil* video game, Acclaim
- ❑ write-in_____

FAVORITE COMIC TV OR MOVIE PROJECT
- ❑ "Batman & Mr. Freeze: Sub-Zero" movie
- ❑ "Blade" movie
- ❑ "The Batman/Superman Adventures"
- ❑ "Space Ghost Coast to Coast"
- ❑ "Spawn" HBO cartoon
- ❑ write-in_____

COMICS' GREATEST MOMENT—1998
- ❑ Batman sees Gotham City destroyed by earthquake, *Detective Comics* #720
- ❑ Herr Starr nukes Monument Valley, *Preacher* #37
- ❑ The return of Hal Jordan, *Green Lantern* #99
- ❑ The Star Conqueror seen as big as a continent, *JLA* #22
- ❑ X-Men reunited in new lineup, *Uncanny X-Men* #360 and *X-Men* #80
- ❑ write-in_____

GET YOUR BALLOT IN BY March 1, 1999.

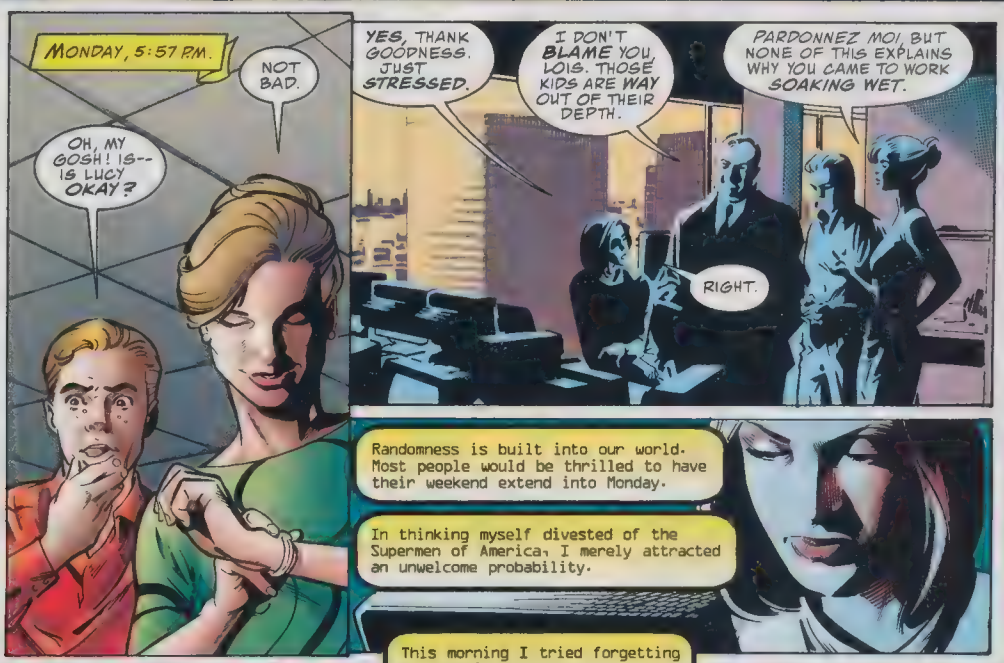
Send your ballot to:
Wizard Fan Awards
c/o Wizard Entertainment
P.O. Box 118
Canoga, NY 13020-0118

Move it, cowpoke! That deadline's March 1, 1999, and all ballots postmarked after that date are null and void!

"--SOMETHING'S HOLDING US UP!"
IT'S OUTBURST AND HIS MARVELOUS MAGNETISM, LADIES AND GENTS--
FM 103
Rock Mobile
EWWW, NEITHER, I TAKE THAT BACK--
KPAOW
THEY CAN TAKE BACK THEIR BULLETS, THANKS TO THE LOSER!
YAAAH!
YOU'RE UP AGAINST BRAHMA NOW!
BETTER LEAVE THE TALKING TO OUTBURST, KIDDO...
RRENNCH
...AND LEAVE THE FIGHTING TO ME...
...THE WHITE LOTUS!
CRAK

INTENSE.
LOSER, GET AFTER THE ONE INSIDE!
JUST TRY TO KEEP THE TRUCK STILL, OUT-BURST!
NOT THAT IT MATTERS.
KRRUNKCH
ARE--WE THERE YET?
NOT NEARLY.
KEE-RAK
THINK YOU'RE TOUGH, GIRL?
YIEEE!
GRIK
LEAVE HER ALONE!
SKEESHH
I-I'M LOSIN' CONTROL OF THE TRUCK! EVERY-ONE--

He probably said "Look out," though I'm not one hundred percent on that.
The actions of the Supermen of America evidently speak louder than words.


MONDAY, 5:57 P.M.
NOT BAD.
OH, MY GOSH! IS-- IS LUCY OKAY?
YES, THANK GOODNESS. JUST STRESSED.
I DON'T BLAME YOU, LOIS. THOSE KIDS ARE WAY OUT OF THEIR DEPTH.
PARDONNEZ MOI, BUT NONE OF THIS EXPLAINS WHY YOU CAME TO WORK SOAKING WET.
RIGHT.
Randomness is built into our world. Most people would be thrilled to have their weekend extend into Monday.
In thinking myself divested of the Supermen of America, I merely attracted an unwelcome probability.
This morning I tried forgetting my experience the way any civilized capitalist would:
MONDAY, 11:13 A.M.
Shopping.

DID HE JUST--?
REDUCED TO CLEAR UP TO 60% OFF
AND SECURITY NOWHERE TO BE FOUND, OF COURSE.
GUESS IT'S UP TO ME.
MAA, I DON'T WANT SUPERMAN SOCKS. I LIKE FLASH.
WELL, HOW ABOUT THIS ONE, CLAUDIO? YOUR GIRLFRIEND WILL LIKE THE COLOR.
MAMA, I DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT FOR A MOMENT! MY BEAUTIFUL BOY? HOW ABOUT THIS ONE...?
TOMORROW SHE FLIES BACK TO CHICAGO, AND YOU'RE FREE. BE THE GOOD SON UNTIL--
--I DON'T BELIEVE IT! RIGHT IN THE OPEN! NO WONDER EVERYTHING'S SO EXPENSIVE HERE!
GUESS IT'S UP TO ME...
GONNA TRY THIS ONE ON, OKAY, MAMA? BACK IN A SEC!

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X1TN98

SHOW THAT GUY ONE YOUNG SUPERMAN'S AS GOOD AS A PACK...
AFTER I MAKE THE FASTEST QUICK CHANGE YET...
I'M TELLING YOU, HE'S RIGHT OVER TH--
GOOD GRIEF.
PYROGEN'S YOUR NEMESIS NOW, PUNK!
GET YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN FRICASSEE 'EM!
HOLY--!
--SMOKE? YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY--
WHERE THERE'S SMOKE...
EXIT
DIRECTORY
WHHRAAASHH
I LIKE A WIENIE BAKE AS MUCH AS THE NEXT GUY...
HEY, YOU!
NO NEED TO THANK ME, GUY...
WHUSHH
Lock up your sons and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Metropolis. The Supermen of America are still recruiting, and your kids may be next.

MONDAY, 5:59 P.M.
I submit the cold, hard facts for your approval. It's a fate none of us deserve.
DONE. AND I'M GOING HOME.
AU CONTRAIRE LOIS. YOU MAY HAVE FINISHED YOUR ARTICLE WITHIN THE ALLOTTED TIME, BUT WE CAN'T PUBLISH IT.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE SUPERMEN ARE UNDERWRITTEN BY LEX LUTHOR, WHO ALSO OWNS LEXCOM?
YOUR ATTITUDE IS TOO HOSTILE. HE WILL NOT ALLOW--
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HOSTILE, SIMONE.
FRANKLY, I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO WITH THE ARTICLE. I'VE HAD MY CATHARSIS. I'M DONE WITH IT.
SAY, LOIS, WAIT UP!
THAT WAS SOME PIECE, Y'KNOW. BUT AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE HARD ON THE SUPERMEN?
THEY'RE JUST KIDS.
THAT'S THE POINT, JIMMY. THEY'RE TRYING TO DO A JOB EVEN THE BIG BOYS CAN'T HANDLE ALL THE TIME.
SOMEONE'S GOING TO MAKE A MISTAKE, AND I DON'T WANT TO SEE THE AFTERMATH.
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S IT?
OR IS SOMETHING ELSE EATING YOU?

BOB KANE
1915-1998

When Bob Kane died on November 3, 1998, he was the last of the giants who not only helped create the DC Universe but who also put comic books on the map as both a new arena in popular culture and a burgeoning art form.

Not unlike Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster who were teenagers when they created Superman, Bob was only 23 when he and collaborator Bill Finger sat on a bench outside of Edgar Allan Poe's house and talked about a different kind of comic character — "a creature of the night, black, terrible" — one who would strike fear in criminals while thrilling the hearts of his fans.

Only Superman, Wonder Woman and Batman have been published continuously since they first hit the newsstands 60 years ago. It is a testimony to the strength and invention of their original conceptions. In Batman's case, especially, the level of primal fantasy, the power of the ominously elegant costume and the richness of his world are for all intents immeasurable. No other comic book hero has such an operatic feel or such memorably twisted villains or inhabits a city that so perfectly mirrors his own dark intensity. And no one else, as the Joker has remarked, has such wonderful toys.

Of course, all these qualities did not emerge full-blown when Batman premiered in *Detective Comics #27* in 1939. But the continuous publication of comics allows for evolution, and within Batman's first two years his vivid theatrical range had been more or less established.

From the beginning, Bob drew on outside sources, most of which had stirred him as a youngster. In his book *Batman and Me*, Bob has written that his earliest influence was the movie *Zorro* which starred his favorite actor, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.

Fairbanks' acrobatics influenced Bob's interpretation of Batman: he somersaulted, he flipped, he swung from buildings on a rope. Zorro's secret identity inspired Bob to create Bruce Wayne. Zorro's alter ego, Don Diego, even entered his mansion by going first through a cave which led to a living room blocked by a grandfather clock.

Bob drew his inspiration from other movies, too, like *Dracula* with its dark and malignant production design, and the 1930 film *The Bat Whispers*, whose chilling antagonist disguised himself in a black robe and a bat headmask. Eight years later, Bob not only remembered *The Bat Whispers* for its compelling image of a "bat man" but for the unforgettable signpost the villain flashed just before he was about to kill. It was a circle of light in the center of which was the dark shadow of a bat.

Bob has written that his other great influence was Leonardo da Vinci's drawing of the "Ornithopter," a glider with large bat wings and a man in the middle. A page of sketches signed "Robert Kane, 1/17/34" shows Bob toying with the concept. Taking up the center of the pages is a man gliding with bat-wings, a batlike mask on his head and a bat emblem on his chest.

Bob met his most important collaborator, Bill Finger, after they'd both graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School. Bill wanted to be a writer, and Bob asked him to script his first two adventure features, *Clip Carson* and *Rusty and His Pals*. Vince Sullivan, one of DC's most canny editors, had whetted Bob's appetite to create a superhero strip by mentioning how much money Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster were then earning from *Superman*. It was only natural that Bob share his crude drawings with Bill, who jumped in, changing Bob's harlequin mask to a hood, replacing eyes with slits, and altering the suit's color from red to gray. Each adjustment made The Batman more threatening and more unknowable. It was Bill, too, who changed the stiff bat-wings of Da Vinci's Ornithopter to a dramatic cape with scalloped edges reminiscent of a bat. Bob writes that although he made Batman a superhero vigilante, Bill turned him into a scientific detective. Yet it was Bill who apparently gave Bob the greatest accolade. According to Bob, as the two colleagues worked together on their presentation for Vince Sullivan, Bill declared: Anything original enough to combine Da Vinci, Zorro and the Bat has to be a success.

Today Batman stories engage the most sophisticated readers. But when Bob created Batman, the ecstatic audience that launched and sustained The Cape Crusader was made entirely of kids. Is it any wonder that Bob reached his readers where they lived? For he was that child reader, too, mixing the things that had moved him most when he was young: the athletic with the archetypal, the suave with the sinister, the fantastic with gritty reality. And there was more: intense visuals, noir atmospherics, action, adventure, wealth and crime.

For the man who plumbed his own childhood to thrill millions of young people for decades to come, his last wishes could not have been more fitting. In lieu of flowers, Bob's family requested that donations be made to "Feed the Children," "Make A Wish Foundation," "The Westside Children's Center," "The Bay Area Youth Center," or any other agency providing services to hungry, homeless, abused or abandoned children.

Even at the end, Bob was enriching as many young lives as he could.

Jenette Kahn
President & Editor-in-Chief
DC COMICS

JIMMY--
--MAYBE I JUST MISS SUPERMAN.
Metropo
Downto
FOLLO
MONDAY, 7:03 PM.

Return:
Mrs. M. Kent
General Delive
Gallville, K
660
OH, LORD, HOW I MISS HIM...
CONTINUED NEXT WEEK IN MAN OF STEEL #87!

Because we missed a lettercol last month, let's cover comments regarding ACTION #746 and #747...

Dear Editors (re ACTION COMICS #746):

"Hiphugger"? "Lowrider"? "Bootcut"? "Slimfit"? Where'd Stuart Immonen dig up these "slackers"? Still, that idea was a cut above the rest!

As for the rest of the issue, I really think Stuart captured the feel of the 1970s extremely well from a writing standpoint. I'm not sure his always terrific artwork captured that feeling, but I really felt the story was right from an Elliot S! Maggin or Cary Bates tale. In addition to the gang named after pants, we had Superman forced to marry Lana Lang and the Prankster, Jimmy Olsen and his Predicto-Helmet, and a Lois Lane with a backbone. Sadly, I feel her new role as Mrs. Superman has put her on the back burner in the present. I hope stories like these will help her become a stronger character once more.

Thanks again for the great issue.

THOMAS MOORE
PHILADELPHIA, PENN.

And thank you, Thomas. We hope that in the months that follow, we'll prove to you that Lois still plays ever so vital a role in the current books. There's no way we could forget her, especially since she wouldn't let us, anyway!

Dear Re:Action (re ACTION COMICS #746):

If the Prankster's stolen ocean liner had as many holes as his "master plan," it'd be on the bottom of Metropolis Bay. Where do I start?

I guess marriage must've been more sacrosanct back in the late '70s than now. Even if he could convince Superman to perform a sham ceremony, what would make Lana remain: the stigma society would place on her for divorcing such a suave super-villain?

For the time being, her cooperation was guaranteed by the hypodermic corsage. Supposedly, it was resistant to Superman's attempts to remove it. Luckily, it was the '70s, where Lana might not have had the initiative to act on her own behalf. Amazing that super-breath wouldn't have succeeded, but the air turbulence generated by whirling helicopter blades worked just fine. Odd; wouldn't the wind actually have *pushed* the needle in? Well, perhaps basic physics worked differently in those days.

Overall, the Prankster's gang, bizarrely named after types of pants, had a sort of flair. Still, they were a little short on competence. What was the point of their department store robbery---to pay for gas costs in the getaway 'copter? Apparently, at some specified time, the Prankster wanted them to shoot missiles at Superman. Why? Since when could that ever bother him? Worse,the Prankster, who's a little less immune to heat-seekers, would be aboard. I doubt this is the sort of big blowout he envisioned for his wedding.

Jimmy, oh so coincidentally, happened to be at the same department store as Lois. Why? Was he checking on his bow tie back order, picking up some freckle remover, or just inventing the concept of stalking?

Most amusing was Clark's expression of absolute shock after an enraged Lana slapped him. Seemingly, people weren't as tolerant of ongoing unexplained absences as they are now.

I can only assume Perry was out disco dancing towards the end, where Jimmy was clowning around the office in his helmet while Lois lounged at her desk. No wonder Clark was rehired. In a work environment where nothing much is expected, he fits right in.

Strange that a story with so little logic could still occasionally manage to amuse. Guess it's because you were consistently illogical, which sums up the '70s Superman pretty well.

JOE FRANK
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.

Just curious, Joe—where were you in the '70s? Judging from the constant nature of your letters, you must've been a pip in school. But hey, any comments are appreciated, and at least yours are entertaining!

Dear DC (re ACTION #747):

I have to say, Dominus's first appearance was stellar. I hate this guy. He's powerful and really smug---a *great* combination for a good villain.

I think what's eating at Dominus is that he thinks of himself as a god, but dislikes Superman for displaying behavior that a god might. A storyline in which Dominus wants to punish Superman for playing a god is a great idea.

Pages 2 and 3 were the best Superman art pages ever done by Stuart Immonen. Seeing Superman and Lois kissing against the backdrop of all the realities of Metropolis was magnificent. Seeing Kismet again was great, too. I'm real excited to see Superman battle it out with Dominus and learn how Kismet enters into all this.

Overall, it's been a great job with the other realities appearing in all the Superbooks—one of the best storylines in years.

WILDSTAR D
POSTED ON AMERICA ONLINE

We're inclined to agree, Wildstar---Dominus has been a major threat for Big Blue, and we're sure we'll see him again soon! And the fact that he resents Superman for performing "godlike" acts is real interesting, when you consider the way Big Blue's been acting lately...

DC COMICS
1700 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY
10019

Dear Re:Action:

I want to start off by saying how much I've enjoyed reading the Superman titles. Of all the comic titles out there, these are the best, no questions about it.

Now, let's get down to business. Of all the great comics you've produced this year, why write about ACTION #747? I mean, there are a ton of letters I could have written that would've been a lot more interesting than this one, but for some odd reason this one blew my mind! Never have I read such an unbelievable, offbeat comic as this one.

Dominus is one cool character. And that last page where he says, "Mortal creatures, enter the age of enlightenment. Reality is now under martial law. Dominus will rule forever." Wow! Great job, Stuart Immonen!

But just who the heck is that little girl who keeps tugging on Superman's cape? And why is Kismet involved? I haven't seen her since the legendary ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #500. Then again, I've only been collecting since MAN OF STEEL #75; I've just been picking up past issues, some even dating back to the 1980s.

I'm not sure I get this whole time-warp thing, but I'm enjoying some nice art along the way. I like Ryan and Rubinstein, but Grummett and Rodier are awesome, too. I've always found Bogdanove and Immonen to be...different, but they're very interesting to look at.

Oh, and congratulations, Supes, on 60 years. I expect to see him in another 60 years. Well, I've got to go pick up my overdue issues of MAN OF STEEL and SUPERMAN. Adios.

NAME UNKNOWN
AND ADDRESS UNKNOWN

P.S. Mike McAvennie is one funny guy.
P.P.S. That'll get me a Baldy, right?

Hopefully, friend, your questions about the storyline have been answered. As for your wish for a Baldy, you must meet two requirements: 1) You must never ask for a Baldy in your letter, cuz that's almost a surefire way you ***won't*** *get one, and 2) Even if we did decide to award you this month's Baldy, we couldn't, since* ***you didn't even write in your name.*** *We've gotta know* ***who*** *we're awarding the Baldy to!*

And now for something completely different...

Re:Action:

As you guys may know, it was about 40 years ago that ACTION COMICS first started printing letters to the editor. This was in ACTION COMICS #245 (October, 1958), and was entitled "Metropolis Mailbag." One of the first letters ever printed came from my father, and can be found in ACTION COMICS #247 (December, 1958). I believe it would be really neat, cool and nostalgic if you would reprint this same letter today. It went...

Dear Editor,

It is an established fact that Superman's costume was made by his foster mother from the blanket in which he was wrapped when he came to Earth as a baby from Krypton. I would like to know what prevents the colors in Superman's costume from fading, despite the fact that he is always plunging into volcanoes, falling into acid vats, braving flames and other dangers. Also, if the costume is made of indestructible material, how was it possible for Ma Kent to cut up the blanket and sew it? Did she use a Super-Sewing Machine?

THOMAS HUDSON
SO. BRAINTREE, MASS.

As for me, all I can say at this point is thanks for putting Supes back into his costume and for getting rid of the energy-based Super-Duo.

RICHARD T. HUDSON
KAUFMAN, TEXAS

Well, Richard, never let it be said that we didn't know how to celebrate an anniversary! And to help cap off your dad's anniversary, we award you this month's Baldy—a tip of the hat to yesterday's letter writers and to the people who remember them today!

—Mike McAvennie
Likes tradition.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

IN ONE WEEK: MAN OF STEEL #87 says hello to new writer Mark Schultz and new penciller Doug Mahnke, and says goodbye to...Clark Kent? Superman can't possibly give up that part of his life...can he? Steel, Superboy, Supergirl, Mark, Doug and Dennis Janke find out in seven days!

ALSO IN ONE WEEK: He's the guy you love to hate, in his own limited series at last! He's Superman's greatest enemy, and he doesn't have one single superpower! David Michelinie, Val Semeiks and Dennis Janke present SUPERMAN'S NEMESIS, LEX LUTHOR #1, and if ya know what's good for ya, you'll go out and get this book!

IN TWO WEEKS: When the Man of Steel brings down a dictator in SUPERMAN #143, people start wondering who the *real* threat is. Dan Jurgens, Joe Rubinstein and new penciller Steve Epting try making it crystal clear in fourteen days!

IN THREE WEEKS: The Special Crimes Unit places a new name on their Most Wanted list in ADVENTURES #566. The name: Superman?! Karl Kesel, Jerry Ordway, Tom Grummett and Denis Rodier swear out the warrants in twenty-one days!

IN FOUR WEEKS: The JLA plan to put Superman in his place in ACTION #753, but they're about to learn that planning it and *doing* it are two very different things! Stuart Immonen, guest scripter Mark Millar and José Marzan, Jr. show you why in twenty-eight days!

dccomics.com
KEYWORD: DC COMICS ON AOL

Standing tall and proud on this month's cover are the Supermen of America, brought to you by Stuart Immonen, José Marzan, Jr. and Patrick Martin!

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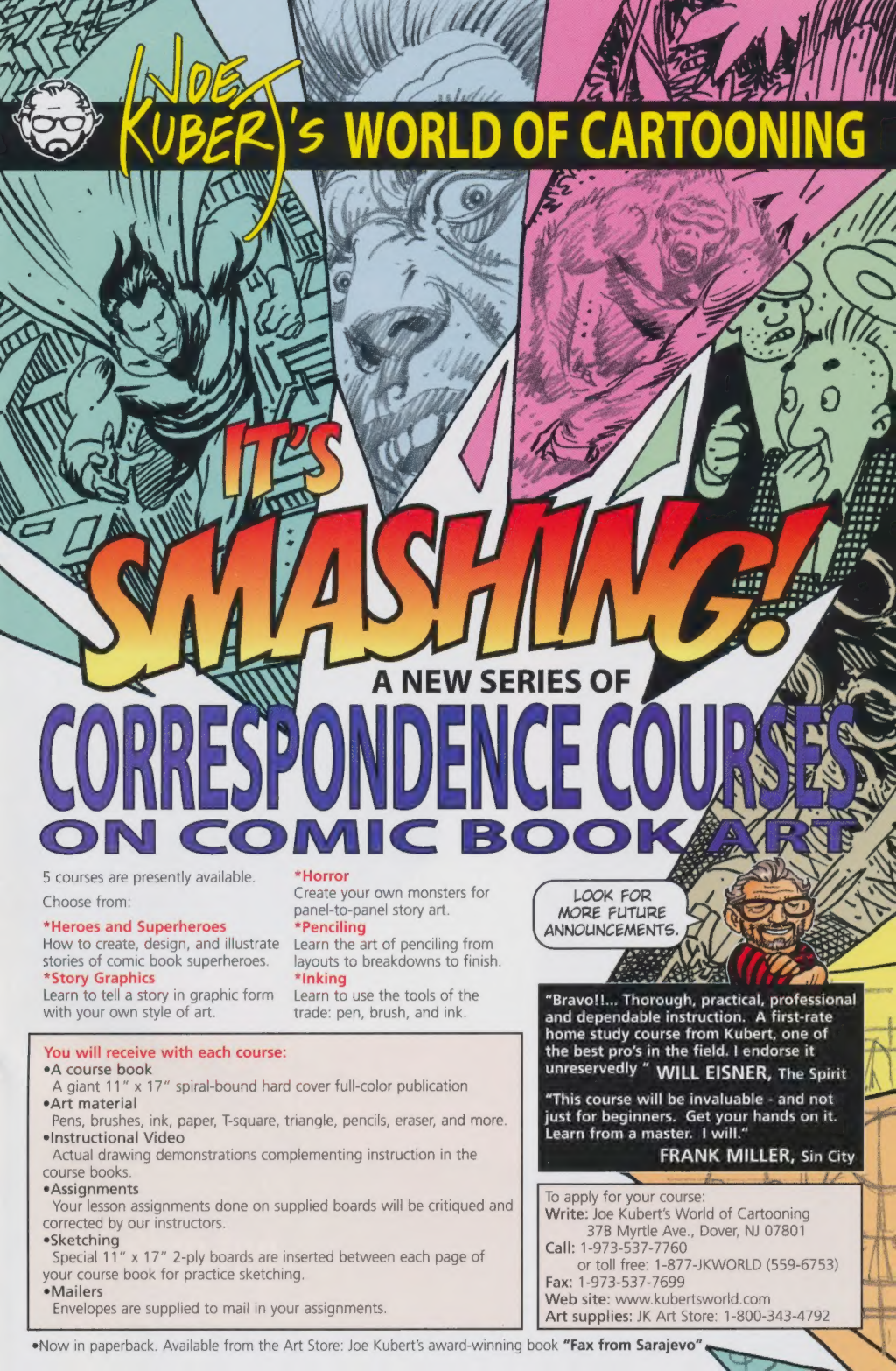

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The Madonna, Stale Fish, and 720 Mc Hawk. I've named my share of tricks. But my secret weapon came with a name already in place. Milk. It has more nutrients than sports drinks, plus it's one of the few things I don't have to be upside down to enjoy.
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